

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00980 082058Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----045232 082058Z /64
O 080840Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6145

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 00980

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI DILEMMA IN THE HORN

REF: A) STATE 116108
B) BAGHDAD 684
C) BAGHDAD 958
D) BAGHDAD 961
E) BAGHDAD 852

1. WE FIND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF A TO BE VERY INTERESTING INDEED. IT INDICATES THAT IRAQI CONCERNS HAVE ADVANCED FARTHER THAN WE WERE AWARE, AND THAT STRAINS IN RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS AND CUBANS OVER THE HORN MAY BE AT CRITICAL POINT. JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING VICE-PRESIDENT MAAROUFS TRIP TO HAVANA TOTALLY IGNORED THE HORN, AN INDICATION THAT TWO SIDES DISAGREED. MEANWHILE, ERITREAN LEADERS CONTINUE TO VISIT BAGHDAD AND EXPRESS THANKS FOR IRAQI AID (REF C). LOCAL PRESS CARRIES DAILY STORIES ON THE ERITREAN SIDE OF THE STRUGGLE.

2. ARAB DIPLOMATS HERE ARE OPENLY ANTI-CUBAN, WHILE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS USUALLY WITHDRAW INTO EMBARRASSED SILENCE WHEN THE SUBJECT COMES UP AT SOCIAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00980 082058Z

GATHERINGS. CURRENT VISIT OF SUDANESE PRESIDENT NUMEIRI IS ANOTHER OCCASION FOR ARABS TO REMIND IRAQIS OF ISSUES WHICH ARE AT STAKE. AS SUGGESTED IN REF B, WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUDANESE HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE HERE, BUT NUMEIRI MAY BE ABLE TO EXPRESS A COLLECTIVE ARAB FEELING ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF ERITEREA AND THE OVERALL THREAT THAT THE CUBAN/SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN POSES FOR THE ARAB NATION. WE ALSO

ASSUME SAUDIS RAISED THE SUBJECT DURING PRINCE SULTANS VISIT
LAST MONTH (REF E).

3. OTHER COUNTRIES CAN HAVE INFLUENCE IN BAGHDAD ON THIS
ISSUE; REF B NAMED IRAN, YUGOSLAVIA, BRAZIL, SPAIN AND
SOMALIA AS LIKELY CANDIDATES. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT
IRANIANS WOULD HAVE THE MOST WEIGHT. A COUNTRY WHICH WAS
NOT ON OUR ORIGINAL LIST BUT SHOULD DEFINITELY BE CONSIDERED
IS KUWAIT, WHERE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WILL TAKE PLACE BEGINNING
MAY 16 (REF D).

4. U.S. ROLE: AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND MAKING AN-
OTHER DIRECT USG DEMARCHE TO THE IRAQIS. WE CONTINUE TO
BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD MARKEDLY STRENGTHEN THE HAND
OF ANY COUNTRY THAT MIGHT RAISE THE SUBJECT BY BRINGING TO
WORLD--AND PARTICULARLY ARAB WORLD--ATTENTION TO THE GOIS
INVOLVEMENT IN FACILITATING THE SOVIET/CUBAN BUILD-UP IN THE
HORN. THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN A WAY WHICH DOES NOT IDENTIFY
US AS THE SOURCE. THE DISSEMINATION OF THIS INFORMATION,
WHICH HAS THUS FAR BEEN RATHER CLOSELY HELD, ESPECIALLY IF
CARRIED IN THE ARAB PRESS, MIGHT INTENSIFY GROWING IRAQI
EMBASSASSMENT AND CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE BAGHDAD
REGIME COULD MORE EASILY REVISE ITS POLICY. IT MAY WELL
BE THAT THE IRAQIS ARE LOOKING FOR JUST SUCH AN EXCUSE TO
JUSTIFY A CONFRONTATION WITH THEIR SOVIET AND CUBAN FRIENDS.

PECK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00980 082058Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA00980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0219
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780584/aaaactxu.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ef0b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 116108
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2767095
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI DILEMMA IN THE HORN
TAGS: PEPR, IZ, ET, SO, DJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ef0b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014